

UNITED PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL  
UPI-161

MARCH 26, 1963

(RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. EST)

(CIA)  
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WASHINGTON--A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE HUSH-HUSH HOUSE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT U.S. DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE IS "BASICALLY SOUND AND THAT WEAKNESSES ARE BEING PROMPTLY AND PROPERLY CORRECTED AS THEY DEVELOP."

THE COMMENT WAS MADE BY REP. FRANK C. OSMERS JUNIOR, OF NEW JERSEY, IN A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN CARL VINSON, D-GA., OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

OSMERS PRAISED VINSON FOR THE "QUIET, CALM AND THOROUGH MANNER" IN WHICH VINSON CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN HIGHLY-SECRET HEARINGS. VINSON IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

OSMERS SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT HE HAD URGED IN JANUARY THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MAKE A STUDY OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SETUP "TO INSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING DONE TO PREVENT ANOTHER RELATED DISCOVERY OF A COMMUNIST BUILDUP AS OCCURRED LAST FALL IN CUBA."

"MANY BITTER LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED IN THE RECENT PAST," HE SAID. "HOWEVER, IT IS MY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE BY THE CIA AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE MAKING OF SOUND DECISIONS."

OSMERS' STATEMENT WAS CONSIDERED UNUSUAL BECAUSE MEMBERS OF THE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE RARELY MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING THE GROUP'S WORK.

OSMERS SAID THAT HIS PREVIOUS SHARP COMMENTS ABOUT APPARENT INTELLIGENCE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE CUBAN AREA HAD SUBJECTED HIM "TO HARSH CRITICISM FROM SOME COLUMNISTS AND LOCAL POLITICIANS" WHO ACCUSED HIM OF FAILING TO OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS.

"FOR ME TO REPLY TO THESE POLITICAL SMEARS WOULD UNNECESSARILY INVOLVE THE HOUSE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE AND MYSELF IN THE PARTISAN POLITICAL CONTROVERSY ABOUT CUBA THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE LAST FALL," HE SAID. "AS A MATTER OF DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTION, I WILL NEVER USE TOP SECRET INFORMATION FOR MY PERSONAL POLITICAL BENEFIT. WINNING A POLITICAL ARGUMENT WILL NEVER BE SO IMPORTANT TO ME THAT I WOULD RELEASE FACTS THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY AID THE NATION'S POTENTIAL ENEMIES."

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